Central Intelligence Agency

DD/A Registry
85-09-74/1

8 APR 1985

Washington, D.C. 20505

1 APR 1985

LOE

Ambassador Morton I. Abramowitz
Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

In response to your letter of 15 March to the Director pertaining to SAFE technology, we appreciated your update on INR's information handling project. The Intelligence Community Staff's recommendations certainly have provided sound guidance in identifying INR's information handling requirements as well as some reasonable approaches to solving them. In retrospect, it should not surprise any of us that SAFE is a natural solution to these needs, given the similarity of analyst's functions in the Intelligence Community agencies.

While INR's study contractor recommended a scaled-down version of SAFE in quantitative terms, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) cautions me that such a system will require a very sophisticated support team--contract monitors, requirements analysts, systems programmers, user support analysts--much like SAFE. They suggest that building such a team may be one of the most demanding tasks in satisfying INR's information handling needs. Further, they suggest this building process should start quickly. To help INR, OIT proposes working with your team--even meld them into our offices for on-the-job training, so to speak, if they meet the same security standards required of CIA and DIA personnel.

Unfortunately, your request that our Project Office commit additional funds and personnel to INR comes at a time when we can least afford to divert these resources from SAFE. The type of support you seek to determine the transferability of the SAFE technology must remain focused on completing the SAFE development. At this point, I believe CIA and DIA's need for a stable SAFE must be attained before we dilute the efforts underway.   STAT

It is clear that the discussions between your technical people in Mr. James Fazio's office, [   ] from SAFE Project Office, and the IC Staff representatives have been constructive. They should be elevated to the technical level but not at the expense of slowing SAFE implementation in CIA and DIA.

Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration

STAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

WASHINGTON

Executiv.............fy

85- 1094

DD/A Registry

85-0974

March 15, 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Dear Bill,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the INR information handling project. As you know, in August, 1983, the Intelligence Community Staff reported on the state of INR's information handling capabilities to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. One of the key recommendations was that a contract study be undertaken to better define INR requirements and recommend how best to meet them in order that INR could keep apace of the advances in information handling made by the other intelligence agencies. Then Chairman Boland subsequently wrote the Secretary requesting that the Committee be kept informed of the progress.

The Department awarded a contract in May, 1984 to the Planning Research Corporation (PRC), which conducted a three phase study: requirements analysis, systems analysis and a transition phase document. The study was monitored throughout by a technical review group comprised of concerned Department offices as well as Intelligence Community Staff representatives. The study is now finished, and recommends that INR pursue a scaled-down version of the SAFE system inasmuch as the SAFE system, as presently constituted, far exceeds our needs in quantitative terms. However, since INR analyst requirements are not unlike those of analysts in CIA and DIA, the question is how to capture the software capabilities while operating on a small hardware suite.

Having completed the study, INR's FY-1985 funding is too limited to permit us to independently maintain our momentum toward modernization. The Department, however, has made a significant long term commitment to our enhancement by including $2.3 million in our FY-86 budget in the context of a planned expenditure of up to $15 million over a five year period. To bridge the gap I request your authorization for Department systems personnel to establish a technical dialogue with the Office of Information Technology (OIT/CSPO) to determine what if any SAFE technology may be transferable to an INR system. The SAFE Project Office had been very cooperative during our study effort, but to adequately evaluate the SAFE system, the Project Office would have to commit additional time and resources to this effort.

Without your backing I don't think we could have gotten this far, and with a little more help now I think we can get the project fairly launched.   Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Morton I. Abramowitz